

LATEST FROCKS ARE OF PRONOUNCED SIMPLICITY

At the Same Time They Have a Distinct Air of Modishness
--How to Finish the High, Straight Collar a Problem With Several Solutions

By ELEANOR HOYT BRAINERD.

"My customers are economizing," a Fifth Avenue dressmaker said wistfully the other day.

"It's necessary for some of them, I suppose, and some are saving their money for the holidays, but with a good many of them it's just a fad. Their incomes would stand the usual strain, but just now it's the fashion to economize and to talk about it. One can cut corners without being criticised, and so everybody's doing it—and dressmakers are letting off more work."

All of which may or may not be true, but it is a fact that for the jaded femininity, tired of bridge and toy Pomeranians and fox trotting, economy in dress might be made a rather absorbing diversion.

Dressing well at a moderate cost is really a good sporting proposition if one will look at it in that light. The thing can be done, but one must devote to it as much energy, intelligence and time as one gives to another fad.

There is a theory that women love shopping and are skilled in the art, but few of them do love it, and fewer still are about it intelligently. They shop early and late in a desperate and futile effort to buy what will be becoming and stylish; but as only an occasional woman knows what is becoming or stylish, the quest is hopeless from the first, and even among the rare souls who know what they ought to buy there's seldom one who goes out and buys it, or, failing that, returns home without buying what she doesn't want.

If a course on the practical and practical shopping could be wedged in among the marketing and dietetic and millinery and dressmaking and other classes supposed to fit girls for handling their own special problems, it might have a beneficial effect upon home finance. But there are women who know what they want and always find it; who pick up bargains that actually are bargains; who can dominate the haughtiest saleswoman and resist the lures of the most beautiful one; who dress better than their friends on less money than the friends spend. These shoppers, however, are in the genius class and seldom can explain their methods.

"How do I do it?" echoed one of them when after a club meeting last week she had prejudiced a group of fellow club members against herself by telling them that her enormously successful

time I've made up my mind what I don't want and what I do want. I'm ready for shopping and I don't waste a minute on the things I don't want.

"No saleswoman can make me do it; and if she can't show me what I do want I hurry off to another shop. I haven't wasted her time or my own the average woman lies to get out of a shop without buying—it's positively pitiful to hear them do it."

"I never buy anything I don't actually need for my wardrobe scheme. That's a great thing in dressing well. Most women fritter away about a third of their dress money on things that don't essentially add to their clothes equipment. I put all the money I can afford to spend into the few things that will best meet my needs, and I'm not everlastingly buying something to take the place of a thing on which I've spent money without getting desired results. I make my frocks and suits and hats dovetail in with each other. I usually choose a becoming color each season and let it run through my wardrobe like a motif. I never buy cheap shoddy things or poor stuffs. I keep my eye out for real bargains in materials the year round. I never go in for faddish extremes whose vogue quickly passes. I try very hard to look ahead and see the direction fashion lines are taking so that I can have my frock made in a way that won't be out of date the second season."

"That's all, I guess, except that you have to make a study of yourself and find out what is becoming and what isn't, and then absolutely refuse to wear what isn't becoming, no matter how stylish it may be."

"But all that takes so much time," protested a friend.

"So does the ordinary footless shopping and dressmaking and dressing."

"And what irritates men?"

All of the club members sat up when the conversation got around to that.

The Southern woman laughed. "They'll tell you, and if I wait any longer I'll be late for dinner. That irritates my man."

"All the same," murmured one of the women left behind when she hurried away, "she is plain."

The woman in the unbecoming hat may have found comfort in that.

The system so sketchedly outlined was a good one and the woman who sets sail for bargainland in these late season days will do well to remember it, for though there are excellent chances of finding exactly what one needs and wants at remarkably low prices temptation to extravagant and foolish buying lurks behind every shop door. Early season models are temptingly priced and short lengths or remnant dress lengths of lovely stuffs at great reductions are more than usually numerous.

The late bird seems likely to get the worm and the woman buying now has the additional advantage of knowing better what she wants than she could know at the beginning of the season. Certain models and materials that appealed to her then have been so overdone that she thanks her lucky stars she did not buy them. Certain ideas that were only tentatively suggested then have developed into definite

and coat, and the set in sleeve, at first so close fitting, shows a suspicious tendency toward fullness at top which whippers of mutton leg lines. It is quite on the cards that mutton leg sleeves will be with us again before long, and one can only hope that fashion will not insist upon having them stiffened.

Chiffon cloth, which is more durable than is generally realized, covers the satin foundation, and the skirt of chiffon is accordion plaited, but a full skirt would give as good an effect and allow of frequent freshening by pressing. For an informal yet dressy afternoon or house frock this model, some such effective color as the original, would be admirable, and yet it does not call for much expense.

And while dress economy is the theme, both the evening frock and the hand-

trasting oddly with the exaggeratedly long waist line of another type endorsed by fashion.

This waist line was defined by three small cords covered with the silk and on each side of front and back two little bows of the silk fell over the skirt. The waist closed high, with a stock of black velvet, over which fell a plain turn over collar of white chiffon. This stock tied in the back with one up-standing loop and two pointed ends which fell way to the waist.

The note of black velvet was repeated in the binding of the two pocket openings and the band bordering the apron tunic front and running up to the waist line on each side of the back, the skirt being softly fluted between.

Simplicity itself, yet in almost any medium or light color the model would be pretty and practical and the materials demanded for it would be by no means expensive, while the making should not be beyond the possibilities of any reasonably skilful dressmaker.

The problem of finishing the high, straight collar of dark material is both a vexing and a vexing one. For the high collar cut down a little in front there are standing collars of muslin or net or lace with little turn back points, but when the bodice collar runs straight around there seems to be nothing for its softening save some form of ruche or a plain turn down collar. The ruche in its fashionable forms is not universally becoming, though when it stands up only across the back and is not too high it is fairly adaptable.

Turn down plaited collars of organza or organza and lace as deep as the standing bodice collar and extending across the back and to a point just below the ears on each side are shown in considerable variety, but have a tendency to thicken the neck line to a degree very unbecoming to many women. On the whole, the flat turn down collar is the most becoming device, but here one runs foul of the possibility of looking "widowish or old ladyish" as one saleswoman put it.

The designers should be able to meet the need, but so far, only a few really good looking turn over collars have appeared, and perhaps the best are deep, with rounded corners, made of white chiffon or crepe chiffon and edged by the finest possible roll of satin in white or color.

These corners do not meet in front, but lie flat on the collar. Cuffs to match are sometimes offered with the collars.

There are flat turn down collars of corded white silk or of taffeta stitched in black or color and running down toward the front in sharp points instead of being deep all around, and occasionally one finds a turn down collar of effectively embroidered muslin, narrow around the back but forming deep sharp points in front. This type has perhaps a smarter air in connection with the triple straight blouse or bodice collar than any other turn down model, and it is to be hoped more of them will be turned out.

The high stock tied in the back, illustrated above, would be good looking for separate wear, and, with a thin boned foundation any woman could compass it.

Another simple frock, easy and comparatively inexpensive to reproduce, was the coral chiffon and satin model of a small sketch. There the charm was largely in the attractive color, but all the details were modish and good, the long full skirt, the long close sleeve, the wide girle, the narrow lines of fur for relief.

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A putty colored gown trimmed with black velvet, a blouse of satin and chiffon and a gown of plain and broche velvet.



Putty colored and black.



Coral chiffon.



Coral broadcloth.



Velvet and lace.

FOR CHILDREN.

FORTUNATELY for present day children, the exorcism of water as a drink is more fully realized than it used to be. Quite tiny babies suffer often from thirst, and more whimpering is due to this than is generally imagined. Very often a teaspoonful of pure water, slightly warmed, of course, as is everything which an infant should take, will soothe and comfort a baby in an extraordinary way. All on through nursery and

school life, water, providing always that it is pure (and this is a fully recognized proviso in these days), should be freely given, and a child encouraged to drink a fair amount steadily. Milk, of course, plays an important part in children's dietary, but it is really a food and not a drink, and it is a mistake to insist on an unnatural use of it in ordinary cases.

For instance, children should not be given milk to drink with their dinners, unless, of course, it has been ordered for a special case by a doctor, which naturally alters matters. Tea should not be given at all to children under 4 years old, and is better withheld for years in the nursery except in some minute quantity that the milk is just colored for milk and water is the proper drink, both for tea and breakfast, cocoa of good quality is far better than tea, especially in winter time, and may well be given both for tea and breakfast to older children. Coffee should be relegated entirely to grown-ups; it agrees with very few children indeed. Lemonade made from fresh lemons and lime juice are both permissible and may occasionally be given, but they should not be allowed to take the place of plain water, the action of which is really salutary, and so should be regularly encouraged.

A child who has naturally a weak circulation should always have hands and feet well rubbed with a warm towel after having been washed in warm water; this regular friction will do much to prevent chilliness. When they have appeared, however, the rub must be done skillfully, but done very gently, and with a soft, instead of a rough towel, for it is most important that the skin should be kept intact, and any rough usage when it is already puffed may lead to the tiresome form of abrasion known as broken chilblains. When these have occurred an ordinary antiseptic treatment should be carefully carried out, and if there is any sign of inflammation it is time to call in a doctor. The grins and frowns of children who have any tendency to chilblains should be very warmly clad, unfortunately, many parents pay far too little attention to this detail of clothing, which is extremely important for the maintenance of health and the prevention of cold catching and chills altogether.

It is most important that medicine for children should be carefully measured in a properly graduated glass. This can certainly be sold at all ages, but when one remembers how sensitive the organism of a little child is it becomes a matter of vital importance. Also a fixed rule should be made to read the label on the bottle always before pouring out a dose, and the habit may well be formed of so pouring it that the label is uppermost, thus catching the eye at the time as it were, and also being safeguarded from defacement by falling drops as the bottle is raised. In this way some tragic accidents, only too common, would be prevented. Spoons ordinarily in use vary immensely in size and are no safe guide for medicine.

A fluid drachm, for instance, is commonly supposed to be equal to a teaspoonful, and is so described on two teaspoonfuls, for instance. But it is a small teaspoonful, and each one given in a spoon of ordinary size is a slight overdose, which may or may not be serious, according to the mixture and the child's age (and also the multiplication of the spoonfuls of course the overdose also being multiplied). Four fluid drachms is the equivalent of a tablespoonful, or half an ounce; but again it is a small

tablespoonful, and the same error may be fallen into. Roughly speaking a wine glass holds two fluid ounces and a tumbler half a pint, both gauges which it is worth while remembering.

With the first cold weather, chilblains frequently make their appearance, and as in their case prevention is very much better, and infinitely easier, than cure, it is well to be prepared for them. They are, of course, caused by faulty circulation, and are commonly found on the extremities, the hands, feet and ears. Preventive measures, therefore, are found in everything that improves the circulation, both in the matter of exercise and of wise food. The improvement in hygienic knowledge in these particulars has become admirable, fruit where chilblains are concerned, and they are rarely found in the serious degree which used to be quite common among schoolboys, especially in former days.

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NEW IN STENCIL WORK

RATHER a new idea is being carried out by a w. m. i. decorator for a nursery in a country house. On the warm tan cartridge paper she has stenciled a group of nursery characters with their names and with a few lines of the story to teach the children may become familiar with the libretto before they learn the music. The tan caracas cloth draperies are stenciled at one window with "The Blue Bird" characters, at others those from

"Hansel and Gretel," Jack the Giant Killer, and a throb for the couch to match is done in big sleepy peepers and fairy sprites.

The tips for the fireplace and hearth are in blue and white, with a Moorish Gesso figure upon them. A large gourd flower is stenciled on each tan linen sofa, cushion, holly leaves, sunflowers, daisies, gladioli and peonies.

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